

Cont
two gears 150a, 152a. The pivot points 144b and 146b are coupled to each other by a rod

148b and two gears 150b, 152b. The pivot arms 144, 146 are actuated by a pair of spaced apart piston actuators 154a, 154b, each having a piston rod 156a, 156b as shown in Figure

C1 8. The gear and bar couplings allow the L-shaped members to maintain a parallel relationship for sealing and severing as illustrated in Figures 9a and 9b. As shown in Figure 9c, the heated bar 140 is flat faced and surrounded by a clamp 158. The sealing surface 142 is provided with a sharp contour 160. When the sealing and severing system is actuated, the clamp 158 holds the plastic film against the sealing surface 142 and the heated bar 140 moves forward to press the film 104 onto the sharp contour 160 of the sealing surface. This system provides sealing and severing without buildup of plastic material on the heated bar 140 because the severing is actually performed by the contour 160 on the cool sealing surface 142 rather than by the heated bar.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add additional claim 17 as follows.

C2 ~~--17. A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:~~

a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material; and

b) a downstream sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll, wherein